**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Previously Presented)   The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a wireless memory tag.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a machine-readable symbol.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended)  A machine readable structure, comprising:

a data structure storing tax information concerning a taxable item that is subject to a government-sanctioned tax for a sale or use thereof, the tax information including a tax payment condition indicator indicative of a status of a payment of the government-sanctioned tax on the taxable item, wherein the data structure also stores a product type identifier and a manufacturer identifier associated with the taxable item, along with the tax information; and

means for physically associating the machine readable structure with the taxable item.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores a taxing authority identifier.

19.    (Currently Amended)  The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores a date on which the ~~government-sanctioned~~ government-sanctioned tax was paid.

20.    (Previously Presented)  The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores an amount of tax paid.

21.    (Previously Presented)  The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores an origin identifier corresponding to an origin of the taxable item.

22.    (Canceled)

23.    (Currently Amended)  A computer-readable memory, comprising:

a data structure having a number of records, each of the records identifiable by an identifier corresponding to a taxable item and storing a tax payment condition indicator indicative of a status of a payment of a tax on sale or use of the taxable item, wherein ~~the~~ same said data structure further has records ~~further~~ that store a product type identifier and a manufacturer identifier associated with the taxable item.

24.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store a taxing authority identifier.

25.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store a tax payment date indicative of a date on which the tax payment was made.

26.    (Previously Presented)  The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store an amount of tax paid.

27.    (Previously Presented)    The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store an origin identifier corresponding to an origin of the taxable item.

28.    (Previously Presented)    The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure is accessible to enable the tax information stored therein to be updated, after the machine readable structure has been physically associated by affixing to the taxable item.

29.    (Previously Presented)    The machine readable structure of claim 28 wherein the data structure requires an access code to allow access to update the tax information stored therein.

30.    (Previously Presented)    The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the data structure is present on a wireless memory device that can be affixed to the taxable item, the wireless memory device capable of being accessed to allow the records of the data structure to be updated after the wireless memory device has been affixed to the taxable item.

31.    (Previously Presented)    The computer-readable memory of claim 30 wherein the wireless memory device requires an access code to allow access to update the records of the data structure.

32.    (Previously Presented)    The computer-readable memory of claim 30 wherein the wireless memory device can be affixed to an opening of a container for the taxable item in a manner that the wireless memory device is damaged when the container is opened.

33.    (New)  The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein said product type identifier, manufacturer identifier, and tax information that are stored by the data structure can all be read from the data structure and verified by a computer.